

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2005
8:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Larry Hudkins, Chair
Bob Workman
Ray Stevens

Commissioners Absent: Deb Schorr, Vice Chair
Bernie Heier

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Trish Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:29 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF THE STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2005

MOTION: Stevens moved and Workman seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes dated August 11, 2005. Stevens, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Request to Temporarily Relocate One of the Existing Keno Terminals From the State Fair Park Grandstand to a Mexican Restaurant on the State Fairgrounds During the State Fair (Exhibit A)
- B. Public Defender Caseload Report (Exhibit B)
- C. Request from American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) President to Meet with the Board
- D. Zoning Setback Enforcement (Exhibit C)
- E. Request to Order Backup Server Software (Exhibit D)

MOTION: Stevens moved and Workman seconded approval of the additions to the agenda. Workman, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

3 RURAL AMBULANCE SERVICE - City Fire Chief Michael Spadt; Sherrie Meints, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Business Manager; Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director

Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, presented Standby Costs as Reported by Rural Departments (Exhibit E).

City Fire Chief Michael Spadt discussed expanding Lincoln Fire Rescue service out into the county. He suggested development of an interlocal agreement, rather than reliance on the current Mutual Aid document, and said he believes it would be advantageous to redefine or consolidate the rural fire protection districts (redefining the districts would require legislation).

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, distributed copies of Resolution 00-66 (In the Matter of Defining Ambulance Services Needs for Lancaster County) (Exhibit F).

Sherrie Meints, EMS Business Manager, said there are approximately 1,000 county service calls each year and said the cost per transport is \$306.

Spadt said Lincoln Fire Rescue operates at a loss in the County because it cannot recoup the full value of the patient.

- MOTION:** Workman moved and Stevens seconded to:
- 1) Form a committee to look at possible solutions, including:
 - A) An interlocal agreement between the City and County;
 - B) Allocating funds under the 15 cent levy authorized for certain political subdivisions
 - C) Redistricting or consolidation of the rural fire protection districts
 - 2) Ask Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, to make suggestions regarding committee membership and head the committee.

It was suggested that membership include: City Fire Chief Michael Spadt; 2 County Commissioners; Jim Densberger, Lancaster County Firefighters Association; Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer; Brian Johnson, the outgoing Waverly Fire Chief.

ROLL CALL: Stevens, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

**4 A) ALTERNATIVES WITH ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT GRANT;
AND B) HUMAN SERVICES PARKING REQUEST** - Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator

A) Alternatives with Accountability Project Grant

Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, presented Juvenile Justice Funding, Projected Requests 2005-2006 (Exhibit G).

The Board requested a breakdown of the grant match.

B) Human Services Parking Request

Boesch requested reinstatement of a paid parking space for her department (one the department's four paid parking stalls was surrendered during the budget process).

MOTION: Workman moved and Stevens seconded to reinstate a paid parking space for Human Services. Stevens, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

- B. Microcomputer Request C#2005-291, Two (2) Laptop Computers and Hardware for Human Services, \$4,054.57 from LB 640 Funds

Boesch said two of the office computers need to be updated.

MOTION: Workman moved and Stevens seconded approval. Workman, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

- 5 **DESIGN OF HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN** - Don Taute, Personnel Director; Bill Kostner, City Risk Manager; Bill Thoreson, Benefits Specialist; Daryl Bell, Milliman USA; Kathy Reiss and Renee Hudkins, Blue Cross and Blue Shield

Kathy Reiss, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, said the current health plan through United Healthcare has a \$250 deductible, per covered person, per calendar year, for in-network and out-of-network providers and said the deductibles are looked at separately by the carrier. She said Blue Cross and Blue Shield's philosophy is to apply whatever applies to one deductible, to the other deductible and asked whether the Board would prefer to leave the deductible at \$250 for both or make the deductible \$250 for in-network providers at \$250 and \$500 for out-of-network providers.

Daryl Bell, Milliman USA, the second option is essentially what the County has now, but "looks different on paper". He said the first option is a benefit to the member but will cost the County more money (ranging from a few tenths of a percent to 1.5% on the total premium). Bell said the Surplus Fund can absorb that cost.

MOTION: Workman moved and Stevens seconded to have one \$250 deductible. Stevens, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

Reiss reviewed other optional changes to the plan:

- Outpatient Services

Reiss suggested that outpatient services be subject to co-insurance, rather than co-pays, explaining that it takes employees longer to meet their co-insurance maximum with the current co-pay structure.

Bell estimated the financial impact to the County at \$100,000 to \$150,000.

The Board decided to not make the change to the plan, but to re-look at it next year.

- Preventive Care

Reiss proposed that the first \$500 of preventive care be covered at 100% and any preventive care received after that be subject to co-insurance only.

Bell estimated the financial impact to the County to be a couple tenths of a percentage point.

Bill Kostner, City Risk Manager, recommended that the County delay a decision and look at all of the benefit issues at one time.

Board consensus was to consider this issue in the future.

- Rehab Services: Pulmonary Rehab; Cardiac Rehab, Outpatient Therapy (Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy) and Spinal Treatment

Reiss said the plan currently allows 20 visits each for physical, occupational and speech therapy and 24 visits for spinal treatments. She proposed combining them into one package for a total of 90 visits.

MOTION: Workman moved and Hudkins seconded to combine rehab services and spinal treatment into a package of 90 total visits.

Stevens suggested limiting it to 75 visits.

AMENDMENT: The maker of the motion and the seconder amended their motion to reflect a total of 75 visits. Stevens, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

Reiss said the plan currently allows for 20 pulmonary rehab visits and 36 cardiac rehab visits. She said that is more than is generally needed and proposed limiting them to 18 visits each.

MOTION: Workman moved and Stevens seconded to change the plan to limit pulmonary rehab and cardiac rehab to 18 visits each. Workman, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

- Durable Medical Equipment

Reiss said the current plan has an annual maximum of \$2,500 for durable medical equipment. She said Blue Cross and Blue Shield does not have a maximum in its standard policy but contracts with a supplier and receives discounts and better pricing. Blue Cross and Blue Shield also covers devices used as safety items or to affect performance in sports-related activities and does not have the three-year limitation on re-purchases (it is based on a determination from the physician that it is a medical necessity due to growth). Reiss recommended that the County adopt the Blue Cross and Blue Shield standard.

Bell said other plans generally have a maximum on durable medical equipment, but not as low as \$2,500.

Board consensus was to look at this benefit with the other options when evaluating the plan next year.

- Coordination of Benefits (COB) - Benefit Reserve

MOTION: Workman moved and Stevens seconded to eliminate the Coordination of Benefits (COB) - Benefit Reserve. Workman, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

- Subrogation - Attorney Fees & "Off Setting"

Reiss said Blue Cross and Blue Shield does not "off set" claims as its attorneys maintain that the practice is not legal.

Bell recommended changing to Blue Cross and Blue Shield's standard practice.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Workman seconded to accept the recommendation in terms of subrogation. Workman, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

Stevens said he received a complaint regarding the lack of lactation services.

Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, said it is not a benefit under the current plan through United Healthcare.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- C. Request from American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) President to Meet with the Board

The Board rejected the request, suggesting that he relay his concerns to the Personnel Department.

- 6 OFFICE OF JUVENILE SERVICES (OJS) EVALUATIONS** - Dennis Banks, Youth Services Center Director; Michelle Schindler, Youth Services Center Deputy Director

Dennis Banks, Youth Services Center Director, presented the following (Exhibits H & I):

- Comparison of the Evaluation Process, 2003 to 2004 to 2005
- Comparison of Fiscal Year Statistics (Through Fiscal Year 2004/2005)

- 7 A) COUNTY FINAL PLAT NO. 05040, HIGH PRAIRIE ESTATES, HIGHWAY 77 AND HICKMAN ROAD; AND B) COUNTY FINAL PLAT NO. 05063, PRAIRIE CREEK ESTATES FIRST ADDITION, SOUTH 148TH AND VAN DORN** - Mike DeKalb, Planning Department

A) County Final Plat No. 05040

Mike DeKalb, Planning Department, gave an overview of County Final Plat No. 05040, High Prairie Estates, a request for five lots and one outlot on property northeast of the intersection of Highway 77/Homestead Expressway and Hickman Road (Exhibit J). Planning staff and the Planning Commission have recommended conditional approval.

B) County Final Plat No. 05063

DeKalb gave an overview of County Final Plat No. 05063, Prairie Creek Estates 1st Addition, a request for one lot and two outlots on property north and east of the corner of South 148th Street and Van Dorn (Exhibit K). Planning staff and the Planning Commission have recommended conditional approval.

- 8 ETHANOL UPDATE** - Don Thomas, County Engineer

Don Thomas, County Engineer, reported on ethanol prices. He said the County's current supplier does not have ethanol on hand and the County would need to get it at the pipeline if it wants to continue the practice of servicing the district offices and patrol stations itself. A 4,500 gallon minimum is required and the County only has a 2,000 gallon tanker. Sapp Brothers is willing to come and fill the County's tanker at the Engineering Shop but there will be \$0.08 cents a gallon difference in price because it is not a transport load. He said servicing the tanks at the Engineering Shop will not be a problem because it will be a transport load and the only difference will be the day-to-day difference in the cost of the fuel.

Hudkins said unleaded gasoline and ethanol gasoline can be mixed in the tank.

Thomas said he was advised not to mix them.

Workman said it shouldn't be an issue because the Board has directed Thomas to only use ethanol blended gasoline (see Staff Meeting minutes of 7/28/05).

MOTION: Workman moved and Stevens seconded to reconsider the idea of requiring the County Engineer to use ethanol blended gasoline.

Brief discussion followed, with suggestions to research the question of mixing fuels in the tank and to defer the matter until all of the County Commissioners are present.

ROLL CALL: Workman voted aye. Stevens and Hudkins voted no. Motion carried.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Workman seconded to suspend the requirement to use ethanol blended gasoline in all county vehicles until there is an opportunity for all of the Commissioners to discuss the matter further at a Staff Meeting and to allow the County Engineer to continue fuel purchases, as he has done in the past, in the interim. Workman, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

The Board scheduled additional discussion of ethanol use on the September 15, 2005 Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

9 CLERK TYPIST III - Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff; Bill Jarrett, Chief Deputy Sheriff

Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff, requested authorization to hire a Clerk Typist III in the Civil Division, using savings in personnel costs from military deployments.

MOTION: Workman moved and Stevens seconded approval. Workman, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

10 ACTION ITEMS

A. Engagement Letter with Dana F. Cole & Company for Audit

MOTION: Workman moved and Stevens seconded approval. Workman, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

B. Microcomputer Request C#2005-291, Two (2) Laptop Computers and Hardware for Human Services, \$4,054.57 from LB 640 Funds

Item moved forward on the agenda.

C. Letter to Mental Health Association of Nebraska

MOTION: Stevens moved and Workman seconded approval. Stevens, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

D. Notice to Villages Regarding Meeting on September 13, 2005

Eagan presented a letter draft (Exhibit L).

Board consensus was to send the letter, as drafted, and to invite Mayor Seng to attend.

E. Legal Opinion Regarding Use of County Visitors Improvement Fund

Eagan said the Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) has asked the County to pledge \$50,000 for a bid to host the AmeriCruise event. He noted that the Board has not approved any use of the fund, received a recommendation from the Visitors Promotion Committee (VPC) or determined whether facilities are adequate.

MOTION: Workman moved and Stevens seconded to seek a legal opinion regarding use of the County Visitors Improvement Fund. Stevens, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

11 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Southeast District Meeting (September 8, 2005)

Workman and Hudkins indicated plans to attend the meeting.

Board consensus was to cancel a Staff Meeting scheduled for that date and to schedule agenda items at the end of the agenda for a special work session on the transfer of development rights scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 6, 2005. If necessary, the Board will recess the meeting so that three of its members can attend the Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) Meeting at 10:30 a.m. and reconvene over the lunch hour or immediately following the regular Board of Commissioners Meeting, scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

B. Meeting with Douglas and Sarpy Counties

The Board will host the meeting at 9 a.m. on Thursday, November 10, 2005 at James Arthur Vineyards, 2001 West Raymond Road, Raymond, Nebraska.

Eagan and Thorpe also reported that staff from the three counties met to discuss items of common interest.

C. Grant Application from Corrections to Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (\$3,000 for Litter Removal Project)

The Board scheduled the item on the Tuesday, August 23, 2005 Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

D. Resolution in Support of Joint Public Agency (JPA)

Eagan presented a draft resolution for the creation of a Joint Public Agency (JPA), with initial participation by Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln, to provide for the design, acquisition of land and construction of improvements for the Rural to Urban Roadway Transition Streets Program (RUTS) and the design and acquisition of land for the East Beltway (Exhibit M).

MOTION: Stevens moved and Workman seconded to schedule the resolution for creation of a Joint Public Agency (JPA) for public hearing on Tuesday, September 27, 2005.

Hudkins asked whether the maker of the motion and the seconder would accept an amendment that provisions be made in the sample JPA to explore options of a fuel tax or a property tax and not just limit it to wheel tax.

The request for an amendment was not accepted and Workman called for the question.

ROLL CALL: Stevens and Workman voted aye. Hudkins voted no. Motion carried.

Hudkins asked for a legal opinion as to whether a JPA is needed if funding is through a property tax or fuel tax.

E. Streetscape Project on South Street

Hudkins reported on a streetscape project on South Street which will impact the County because of Lancaster Manor and Trabert Hall.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Request to Temporarily Relocate One of the Existing Keno Terminals From the State Fair Park Grandstand to a Mexican Restaurant on the State Fairgrounds During the State Fair (Exhibit A)

The Board scheduled the item on the Tuesday, August 23, 2005 Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

- B. Public Defender Caseload Report (Exhibit B)

Eagan said the public defender plans to provide the reports on a monthly basis and suggested distribution through the commissioners' office mailboxes or placement on the record at a Board of Commissioners Meeting.

- D. Zoning Setback Enforcement (Exhibit C)

Board consensus was to refer the matter to the Board of Zoning Appeals

- E. Request to Order Backup Server Software (Exhibit D)

MOTION: Workman moved and Stevens seconded approval. Stevens, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

Workman exited the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

12 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

- A. Information Services Policy Committee (ISPC) - Stevens

Stevens said a re-write of the General Assistance (GA) program may not be as complicated as originally thought.

- B. Visitors Promotion Committee (VPC) - Schorr

No report.

- C. Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) Budget Monitoring Committee - Stevens

Stevens said questions were raised regarding the County's accounting system.

- D. Public Building Commission (PBC) - Hudkins, Workman

Hudkins said the PBC made an offer on additional property.

- E. Meeting with Senator Byars - Stevens, Schorr

Stevens reported discussion of a variety of issues.

13 ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk